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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 278

14 October 1958

1. The following were present:

Mr. D. J. Clinton	State
Mr. R. S. Kain	State
Mr. J. A. Minogue	Army
Cdr. H. F. Perrenot	Navy
Mr. H. P. Noland	Navy
Lt. Col. H. K. Avery	Air Force
Mr. Chas. P. Berney	Air Force
	CIA (Chairman)
	CIA (Vice Chairman)
	CIA (Secretary)

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2. Revision of IAC-D-45/12

The Committee approved deletion of Part II of IAC-D-45/12, relating to NIS dissemination to the non-intelligence departments and agencies, as proposed at the last meeting (refer to Item 2 NCM 277).

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4. Changes in Committee Structure under USIB

The Committee decided that no changes are necessary in the charter, organization, or functions of the NIS Committee under the new USIB terms of reference (refer to Item 11 b. NCM 277).

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5 Analysis of First Quarter Production

The Committee discussed OBI memorandum, "Analysis of NIS Production--First Quarter FY 1959" transmitted to the members under date of 9 October 1958, and indicating the following production situation as of 30 September 1958.

	<u>Sections Scheduled</u>	<u>Sections Delivered</u>	<u>Percent Complete</u>
State	43	13	30%
Army	22	24	109
Navy	2	1	50
Air Force	2	1	50
CIA	16	12	75
Total:	85	51	60%

The chairman noted that NIS production showed a similar pattern to the previous year's production for the First Quarter. The Department of the Army continues to maintain scheduled production, reflecting careful planning and orderly review procedures. The other Defense Agencies and the CIA are slightly in arrears of schedule to the extent of six sections. The production situation with respect to the Department of State, however, already reflects a serious defection of 30 sections.

The State member replied that State's own production is in a better position than indicated by the statistics because, of the 30 sections in arrears, 19 sections are attributable to Agriculture and Interior. Thus State is directly responsible for 24 scheduled sections, has delivered 13 sections, and has a completion of 54% for the First Quarter.

The chairman observed that the total sections delivered by State is approximately the same as in the corresponding period a year ago and indicates that corrective measures instituted last year as a result of similar shortcomings have not been effectively maintained. In order to differentiate between State's total responsibility and its own production responsibility, the chairman said that in future reports these data will be shown separately.

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6. NIS Production Forecast

The chairman reported that Army and Navy had submitted comments on the preliminary NIS Production Forecast (refer to Item 5 NCM 277). The Air Force member said his comments will be sent in shortly. The State member said that before State's forecast could be developed in detail it would be necessary to make specified changes in the Chapter I forecast to conform to State's capabilities. The other members agreed to consider the changes and to report their agencies' views to the chairman.

7. Possible Compromise of NIS

The Air Force member reported by memorandum (AFCIN-2X1 of 10 October 1958) the following circumstances relating to the possible compromise of NIS material:

1. On or about 15 September 1958, NIS documents in route from HQ 3750th Technical Training Wing, Sheppard AFB, Texas to Stead AFB, Nevada were subjected to possible compromise.
2. The registered package of documents was received with the inner and outer envelopes broken open.
3. Listed below are the NIS which were in the package.

NIS 12	Section 56	NIS 53	Section 51
NIS 17	Section 71	NIS 53	Supp. V, Part 6
NIS 17	Section 74	NIS 53	Supp. V, Part 7
NIS 20	Section 65	NIS 61	Section 38
NIS 33	Supp. V, Part I	NIS 77	Section 38
NIS 38	Section 54	NIS 87	Section 36
NIS 42	Section 31	NIS 93	Section 37
NIS 42	Section 56	NIS 94	Section 41
NIS 43C	Section 80	NIS 100A	Section 57
NIS 50A	Section 59		

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8 NIS Use Survey

The Committee discussed at some length "A Study of the Use of the NIS in the Field," copies of which were distributed by the State member at the last meeting (refer to Item 10 NCM 277).

The chairman said that OBI is preparing commentary on it. The dominant significance of the Study tabulations is the high level of NIS use by post political and economic officers and Service attaches. Of these primary NIS customers among the field personnel surveyed by the questionnaire, 90% read all or (as would be anticipated) selective portions of the NIS for the country of post location. Over two-thirds regularly or occasionally use the NIS. The proportion finding the NIS helpful is a very high 93%.

The chairman further observed there is a meaningful distinction between these responses (over two-thirds of the total received) and the problem of limited use of the NIS by the other post personnel (mainly administrative, Consular, and USIS), for which the Study appropriately recommends departmental corrective action. Of interest is the fact that, of requests for an additional 3,865 NIS sections generated by the questionnaire, more than 2,700 were on adjacent or politically related areas. This substantiates the findings of previous questionnaires that published basic intelligence on pertinent other areas is a major element in the value of the NIS for post personnel, who generally will have local sources and more current information on the post's country.

The chairman noted that the Study had certain recommendations of interest to the Committee. Since all of these had been previously considered, he thought it might be well for him to restate the Committee's position on these matters.

1) Change the format to facilitate more frequent revisions

The Study suggests essentially a page-by-page NIS maintenance procedure, and gives as type examples the "Foreign Service Manual" and the "U.S. Army Weapons and Equipment Handbook." Both examples lend themselves to this form of maintenance, where individual page changes can be made without affecting other portions of the documents because their contents consist of a series of individual

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regulations or weapons. On the other hand, the fundamental NIS unit of production and maintenance, the section, is an integrated presentation of basic intelligence on an individual topic. Changes in one facet of the topic usually affect other aspects and always require re-evaluation of the topic as a whole. Moreover, page-by-page maintenance of the more than 4,000 NIS sections would create both in Washington and the field a wholly unmanageable administrative task. A constructive approach to this problem with respect to State's area of responsibility is augmentation of maintenance production of the sociological, economic, and particularly the political chapters on critical NIS areas.

2) Reduce the classification.

The Study observes that the classification of the NIS limits its usefulness to the Foreign Service, and suggests the possibility of issuing the NIS in two parts--one unclassified, the other classified. The NIS Committee has repeatedly held that the all-source, integrated nature of NIS requires a single, over-all classification for each NIS section. It is particularly illogical to break apart an integrated presentation, place the pieces in different locations, and expect the user to have a clear impression of the topic in question by referring either to the unclassified or to the classified portion. It would appear from the Study tabulations that the present classification of the NIS is not a serious bar to its extensive use at most posts. NIS trip reports have indicated some posts where NIS are filed in inaccessible vaults or chronologically in central files along with other incoming documents. In either case, desk officers would find identification and accessibility difficult. A practical solution is toward more accessible stowage and integral filing of NIS at such posts.

3) The NIS should be more completely indexed.

The Study indicates that "several posts complained about the difficulties created by lack of indexing." This does not appear to have been an extensive complaint since the questionnaire replies covered more than a hundred Foreign Service posts. NIS sections have not been indexed because indexing is a costly and time-consuming undertaking

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and experience has indicated that reasonable guidance to the relevant subject matter is provided by chapter and section tables of contents, the Reference and Correlation Guides, and the master index in each Chapter I.

- 4) The information contained in the NIS should be made available in briefer form.

This recommendation overlooks the broader requirement of the NIS beyond Foreign Service posts; and even within this group there was indicated need of the Soviet Bloc posts for detailed information in the NIS. With respect to this recommendation the NIS Reference Guide states:

"The NIS is used by components of the Government both in Washington and in the field for a wide range of purposes from the highest policy and planning to operational levels. In consequence, the manner in which the NIS is used and the amount of detail desired is subject to wide latitude. The NIS is designed to satisfy these requirements within practical limits by providing NIS units at three levels of detail within the integrated Survey: 1) A succinct summary in Chapter I; 2) more comprehensive coverage in Chapters II-IX; 3) extensive detail on certain subjects in Supplements."

9. Other Matters

a. After consideration of several proposed new titles for Section 57 (Subversive), the Committee changed the title to "Subversion," which was acceptable to the State member (refer to Item 11 e. NCM 277)

b. The members were handed copies of an OBI draft dated 14 October 1958 proposing changes in the Chapter I Outline Guide, to include two aspects now carried in the Annual, "Chronology" and "Leading Personalities."

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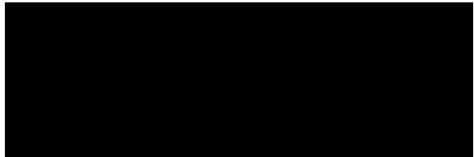
c. The Army member referred to a previous ruling of the Committee that the Annual will carry the same classification as its related Chapter I (refer to Item 3 NCM 276), and noted that in preparation of Section 19 of the Annual on Turkey the related Chapter I section is TOP SECRET. The chairman said this matter was under consideration by the Chapter IX Subcommittee, but it was likely that the content would require only a SECRET classification, which should be done as an exception to the general ruling.

d. The members were handed for later consideration copies of a proposed revision of Chapter VII Outline Guide which had been prepared and approved by the SEC.

e. The Army member stressed the importance of proper classification of documents and in particular the use of the downgrading stamp on covering memoranda.

10. The next meeting of the NIS Committee will be held at 1000 hours on Tuesday, 4 November 1958.

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